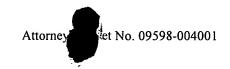
~ Applicant: George B. Stefano Serial No. To Be Assigned Filed: Herewith Page:

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## **REMARKS**

In this Preliminary Amendment, claims 17-32 and 41-103 have been canceled without prejudice. Thus, claims 1-16 and 33-40 are pending. In addition, the specification has been amended (1) to reflect the status of this application, and (2) to indicate the governmental funding source. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-16 and 33-40 are in condition for examination, which action is requested. Filed herewith is a check in payment of the excess claims fees required by the above amendments. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 10, 2000

Reg. No. 44,109

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